

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 over Burton in view of Weichman, or vice versa. Claims 21-25 also stand rejected under 35 USC §103 over Kovacs in view of Burton and Weichman. Applicants respectfully disagree since the claims have been misinterpreted in a manner inconsistent with Applicants' specification in order to support the rejection. In other words, the claims cannot be both interpreted consistent with Applicants specification, as required by the MPEP, and also be interpreted so broadly as to read upon any fair combination of Kovacs, Burton and Weichman. However, in order to avoid bickering over what the term "box boom" means in the context of Applicants' claimed invention, Applicants have amended claim 21 to make explicitly clear that which was implicit in the claim as originally filed; a box beam has a hollow interior. In other words, the scope of the claim has not been altered, and there should be no dispute that the claim can not now be misread onto any fair combination of Kovacs, Burton and Weichman. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §103 rejections against claims 21-25 be withdrawn.

Applicants have also submitted new claim 26. Claim 26 depends from claim 21, and is therefore believed to be allowable for reasons similar to those expressed above. In addition, claim 26 further modifies the step of forming a box boom configuration as follows:

forming the box boom with a constant size rectangular cross section that extends over at least about one half a length between a rear lever space and a front lever space of the lift arm.

Figure 7 illustrates the referenced front 294 and rear 292 lever spaces, and the constant size rectangular cross section that extends at least about one half the length between the same. None of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a method that includes the step as claimed, and allowance of claim 26 is therefore respectfully solicited. No additional fee is believed required for new claim 26; however, the Director

is authorized to charge any under payment or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 500226.

In view of the present amendment and arguments, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance of claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20-26. However, if the Examiner believes that some minor clarification would place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (812) 333-5355 in order to hasten the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MBL' with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Reg. No. 35, 949